88. Water supply in the town of Shencottah.

Mr. P. Chellasami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, Municipal Council, Shencottah) represented that the town of Shencottah was very badly in need of water both for drinking and other purposes, and the grievances relating to scarcity of water were not redressed even though the same was represented on many occasions in the Assembly. The Member said that before doing anything for Shencottah in the matter of supply of water, the disposal of the Perumalkulam tank—the most insanitary of the three tanks of the town—should be taken up for consideration. The tank measured 6 acres and 33 cents and was the source of water supply to 7 acres and 81 cents of nanja lands. The tank being a source of several epidemic diseases and being very unhealthy to the people around and close to it, the Member proposed that the tank including the nanja lands measuring in all about 15 acres should be acquired by Government, as suggested by Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar at the 10th session of the Assembly. The Member observed that, though there was some correspondence between the Department of Public Works, the Dewan Peishkar, the Municipality and Government, as a result of Mr. Karayalar's suggestion, no final decision had been arrived at. After acquiring the tank and the adjoining nanja lands by Government, the Member said that the tank should be filled up and the paddy lands levelled and the whole area should be subdivided into rectangular blocks for building houses with streets in the middle and those sites might be sold to the people to build houses. The Member also suggested that a small masonry tank (Theppakulam) for water supply should be provided in the Perumalkulam tank, measuring about 40 to 50 feet in diameter, and should be deepened by 10 feet below the present lowest point and that after leaving a foot path or road about 12 feet space round the masonry tank, the remaining area should be sold to the public to build houses. By acquiring the tank, preparing it for house sites and then selling it off for building houses, the Government would not, the Member said, be losers, but on the other hand would be profited. The Member also requested Government to sink not less than half a dozen wells in convenient localities in the town with a view to relieve the people from distress on account of scarcity of water.

Dewan.—Can the cost of the scheme referred to by you be met by the sale of the site?

Member.—Yes.

Dewan.—Then why should not the Municipality undertake the work, and make some money out of it? That is what the Regulation wants Municipalities to do. You may borrow the money in the first instance and you may acquire the lands, sell them, repay the loan and even make a profit. That was what the Trivandrum Municipal Member was saying. Why should the Municipality come to Government for doing this? As regards wells, the Municipality can get them sunk through a contractor. You probably want the cost to be borne by Government. I do not think these wells are beyond your means. If it is a question of a big water supply scheme where lakhs of rupees have to be invested, it is reasonable to expect Government to help the concern. The sinking of half a dozen wells may not cost very much.

89. The undesirability of introducing taxation in all the municipal towns on a uniform basis.

Mr. Jacob Kurien (Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara) submitted that the sanitation and conservancy of the minor municipal towns was originally in the hands of the Sanitary department and that the towns were kept well under their supervision. With the starting of Town Improvement Committees in those towns the only extra benefit they conferred on the people was the provision of street lights. Even that service was not adequately done. The Town Improvement Committees were not able to give satisfaction to the people as they were lacking in funds. Confining his remarks to Mavelikara, the Member pointed out that the Municipality was handicapped for want of funds. At present the expansion of a municipal town was carried out with a view to bring within its limits paying markets. He then observed

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that the different kinds of taxation provided in the new Municipal Regulation, if given effect to, would be a source of great hardship to the people. He asserted that the resolutions of the Municipal Conference held on the 18th September 1920, were not binding on the non-official councillors, as the Conference did not include their chosen representatives. Consequently, the Member represented that the decision of the Mavelikara Municipality to impose a minimum house-tax of 3 per cent. in pursuance of the resolution of the Municipal Conference was not binding on the people who were against the levy of any kind of taxation; as a matter of fact the citizens of that town were too poor to bear such taxation. In conclusion, the Member requested that minor Municipalities might be exempted from the imposition of the taxes referred to in the Municipal Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Municipal administration is not imposed as a compulsion. I think the Member is labouring under a mistake. If any municipal body feels that there is no need for its existence, it may say: 'we do not want the institution and so we wish to dissolve', and the matter will certainly be considered by Government.

90. Need for Government help for the improvement of sanitation in the town of Changanachery.

Mr. M. Rajendra Rao (Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery) represented that the sanitation of the public vegetable market of Changanachery which was the most important market in the whole State was unsatisfactory, that there was not sufficient space in the premises for holding the market, that even after the levy of the taxes under the Municipal Regulation, the Municipality would not be in a position to finance such undertakings as the improvement of the market, etc., and that it was imperative that Government should come to the rescue of the Municipality. The question of adding on to the premises of the market the space occupied by the Travellers' Bungalow, was represented at the 16th session of the Assembly, and the Dewan had replied that there was no objection to utilise the space occupied by the Travellers' Bungalow for the market, if it was decided to shift the Travellers' Bungalow from its present site. The Member prayed that early steps be taken for shifting the Travellers' Bungalow from its present site and that the site of the Travellers' Bungalow as well as certain other lands referred to in a sketch presented by him be acquired on payment of compensation and utilised for extending the premises of the market.

The Member next stated that it was very necessary to improve the warehouse landing to the south of the market to suit the convenience of the large number of *valloms* approaching the market. This subject also had been brought forward at the last session of the Assembly and a report had been called for from the Municipality which had been sent up. He prayed that the needful might be done soon.

The Member also drew attention to the urgent necessity of improving certain public tanks in the town. The most important of those and the one used by all classes of people was the Poovakattu *Chira* covering an area of about 8 acres. The subject of improving that tank was brought forward at the 11th and 12th sessions of the Assembly and the matter was referred by Government to the Chief Engineer. In accordance with the opinion of the Chief Engineer, Government passed final orders in G. O. No. P. W. 5796/794/15 dated the 12th September 1916 that the tank need not be improved. He then pointed out that the above decision was unsatisfactory, that the Municipality was not in a position to undertake the work, and that the work was not likely to require more than Rs. 8,000 and prayed that Government be pleased to undertake the work as early as possible. He did not approve of the attitude of Government in holding that the improvements of tanks, etc., within municipal limits should be attended to by the Municipalities concerned, especially at the present stage when the municipal system had only been just inaugurated.

For the improvement of communications in the town, the Member suggested that certain canals might be widened by acquiring lands and that certain lanes might be widened and improved by the provision of drains.

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